

3.06 THE WALLS OF JERICO

JOSHUA 6



Joshua was now leading the Israelites to the promised land. He had sent two spies to the town of Jericho to see what was going on there. These spies had stayed at the house of Rahab, one of the women who lived in Jericho. She hid them from the king. The king had asked Rahab about these two men, but Rahab told the king they had already left town. Rahab had saved their lives because she believed they were doing what God asked them to do. She asked the men to save her life and her family's life when they came to conquer Jericho. The spies promised they would.

The spies returned to Joshua. Everyone was camped out in the desert near Jericho. God spoke to Joshua, "Be alert!" God said, "I've already given Jericho to you. I've also given the king and all his soldiers to you. But here is what you are to do." God told Joshua and his soldiers to march once around the city every day for six days. Have seven priests, the religious leaders, carry seven trumpets in front of the Ark of the Covenant. (The Ark of the Covenant was a special box where the tablets with God's laws on them were kept. God had given these laws to Moses when the people were still traveling in the desert. These were the laws to keep the Israelite people close to God.)

Then on day seven, the soldiers and the priests were to march around the city of Jericho seven times. On this day, the priests were to blow their trumpets and make lots of noise as they all marched around the city. Then, there would be a long blast of music at the end. When that sound was heard, everyone was to shout with the loudest shout they could make.

Joshua called the priests and told them what they were to do. "Hold the Ark of the Covenant. Take seven trumpets in front and lead the way," Joshua told the people. "March around the city!" It happened as God said it would: Joshua spoke, the people began to march, the priests with their trumpets set out before God, carrying the Ark of the Covenant. Joshua had told them, "On the seventh day, do not speak, do not make a sound, not even a whisper, until you hear me say, 'Shout!' Then shout as loudly as you can."

When the time came, they all marched around the city. The priests held up the Ark of the Covenant. They blew their trumpets, but the soldiers were silent. On day two, this happened again. For a total of six days there was marching and the blowing of the trumpets. When day seven came, the marching and blowing of the trumpets happened again—but, this was the day when everyone would go around the city seven times. After the seventh time around, the priests blew the trumpets loudly and Joshua said to the people, "SHOUT! God has given you the city! Everything must be completely destroyed. This will be for God. The only people to be saved are Rahab and her family. They will be rescued because Rahab rescued our spies."

The soldiers heard the loud sound of the instruments. They shouted as loudly as they could. Suddenly, the walls of Jericho completely fell! The Israelites ran into the town and captured it. They destroyed everything there. But Joshua told the two spies, "Go in and rescue Rahab and her family. Take them all to a safe place near the camp of the Israelites." Rahab was saved. Her family was saved. They were all sent to live with the Israelites and be a part of the people of God.

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HIGHLIGHTS:

- 1) Two spies were sent by Joshua to see what was going on in the town of Jericho. They stayed with a woman named Rahab. She hid them while the king was looking for them. They promised to save her and her family when they came to conquer Jericho.
- 2) God told Joshua to have his soldiers march around the city for six days. God told the priests to blow their trumpets as they led the Ark of the Covenant around the city.
- 3) The Ark of the Covenant was the special box where the tablets that had God's laws on them were kept. These laws were to keep the Israelite people close to God.
- 4) On the seventh day, everyone was supposed to march around the city of Jericho seven times. The priests would continue to blow their trumpets. Then, Joshua would tell them to shout.
- 5) When everyone shouted, the walls of the city of Jericho completely fell. Everyone rushed in and destroyed the city of Jericho. But the woman, Rahab, who had helped the spies, was rescued with her family.

QUESTIONS:

- 1) What did Rahab do for the spies?
- 2) What did God tell Joshua to have his soldiers and priests do?
- 3) What was the Ark of the Covenant?
- 4) On the seventh day, what were the soldiers and priests to do?
- 5) What happened when Joshua told them to shout?
- 6) What happened to Rahab?

ANSWERS:

- 1) Rahab hid the spies from the king.
- 2) Joshua told the soldiers and priests to march once around the city for six days.
- 3) The Ark of the Covenant was the special box where the tablets that had God's laws on them were kept.
- 4) On day seven, the priests and soldiers were to go around the city seven times.
- 5) When the people shouted, the walls of the city of Jericho completely fell.
- 6) Rahab and her family were rescued.